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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/675,265	09/28/2000	Thomas W. Jewitt	003551.P007	1008
7590	02/27/2006		EXAMINER	
Dennis A. Nicholls BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP 12400 Wilshire Boulevard 7th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90025			BRINICH, STEPHEN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2624	

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/675,265	JEWITT, THOMAS W.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Stephen M. Brinich	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,16 and 18-21 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 2-15,17 and 22 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.


- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 & 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stansfield et al (EP 0301786).

Re claims 1 & 20-21, Stansfield et al discloses (Figure 3; column 3, line 58 - column 4, line 9) a halftone descreening arrangement in which a first descreening filter operation (32, 33) is applied to an image to produce an intermediate image, after which a low pass (i.e. smoothing) filter (34) is applied to the resulting intermediate image to produce an output image.

While it is noted that the low pass filter 34 is not specifically confined to "line smoothing", the current claim language does not require that lines and only lines are smoothed by the line smoothing filter.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 16 & 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stansfield et al.

Re claims 16 & 18-19, Stansfield et al does not describe the use of a computer-readable medium bearing sequences of instructions for carrying out the above described process.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to implement a known method in the form of computer software stored on a computer-readable medium.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to enable the method to be practiced by loading the program into a general-purpose computer, thus avoiding the need for specific hardware for its implementation.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the well-known concept of computer software with Stansfield et al to obtain the invention as specified in claims 16 & 18-19.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2-15, 17, & 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Re claims 2, 7, 12-15, 17, & 22 (and dependent claims 3-6 & 8-11), the art of record does not teach or suggest the recited filter configuration in conjunction with a screen conversion filter for producing an intermediate image followed by a line smoothing filter to produce an output image.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Seidner et al, Zaklika et al, and Trifonov et al, disclose examples of multi-step descreening filter arrangements.

a. Any inquiry concerning the contents of this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. Brinich at 571-272-7430.

Any inquiry relating to the status of this application or proceeding or any inquiry of a general nature concerning

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application processing should be directed to the Tech Center
2600 Customer Service center at 571-272-2600 or to the USPTO
Contact Center at 800-786-9199 or 703-308-4357.

The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays 7:00-4:30,
alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to contact the examiner and the Customer
Service Center are unsuccessful, supervisor David Moore can be
contacted at 571-272-7437.

Faxes pertaining to this application should be directed to
the Tech Center 2600 official fax number, which is 571-273-8300
(as of July 15, 2005).

Hand-carried correspondence may be delivered to the
Customer Service Window, located at the Randolph Building, 401
Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Stephen Brinich
Stephen M Brinich
Examiner
Art Unit 2624

smb
February 2, 2006